GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2863
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
NORMS FOR STORAGE OF AMMUNITIONS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of ammunition is being stored without proper safety arrangements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain norms have been notified for storage of ammunition;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these norms are being followed;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether some new ammunition depots have been constructed or old ones upgraded during the last three years; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Due to the increase in the range and depth of ammunition over the years because of the induction of State of Art Weapon System and Missiles, the investment in ammunition storage accommodation and its availability has not kept pace with the requirement. As an interim measure certain quantity of ammunition which is less prone to deterioration is being stored on open plinths covered by tarpaulin.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The norms for storage of ammunition have been specified in STEC (Storage, Transport and Explosive Committee) regulations issued by the Centre for Environment and Explosive Safety (CEES) which is the apex body in the country to lay down the norms. The norms are detailed and ammunition specific.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. However, in certain cases due to constraints of space and location of the depots, ammunition cannot be stored strictly as per the norms specified in STEC Regulations.Deviation sanctions in all such cases are being taken as per the existing provisions in the Regulations.

(g) & (h): No new Ammunition Depots have been constructed. Adequate funds have been made available to construct proper ammunition store house in the existing depots. Funds made available during last three years for the purpose are as follows:-

(i) 1999-2000 Rs. 121 Crores

(ii) 2000-2001 Rs. 228 Crores

(iii) 2001-2002 Rs. 147 Crores